



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Washington*

**PRESS RELEASE**

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>  Wednesday, June 7, 2006	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b>  Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
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**“ZILLAH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY”**

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that a federal grand jury returned a two count indictment against Ronnie Dale Nash, age 39. Ronnie Dale Nash, was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at his home today located at 455 Gurley Road, Granger, Washington, after a long investigation which originated out of the state of Pennsylvania and furthered through the efforts of the Yakima County Sheriff’s Office and the FBI.

The indictment charges Ronnie Dale Nash with one count of transporting child pornography over the internet, and one count of possessing child pornography. The investigation began through a joint task force in the state of Pennsylvania who identified the Defendant amongst several individuals who had been discussing in a chat room, the molestation of minor children. This information was passed on to the Yakima County Sheriff’s Office who was able to obtain a search warrant for the Defendant’s residence where they seized a lap top computer, a thumb drive and several other media storage devices. Mr. Nash was a high school teacher in Zillah, WA at the time of search warrant and has since been placed on administrative leave.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, “Those in our society who prey on innocent children will be brought to justice, especially those who occupy positions of trust and who are responsible, in large part, for the safety and education of our youth. This is but one more example of the kind of criminal activity which the Internet can facilitate.”

A conviction for transporting child pornography carries a minimum penalty of not less than 5 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, up to a life period of court supervision after release. A conviction for possessing child pornography carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, up to a life period of court supervision after release.

The continuing investigation of this case is being conducted by the Yakima County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. This case is being prosecuted by Stephanie Whitaker, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

An Indictment Contains Allegations That a Defendant Has Committed a Crime. Every Defendant Is Presumed Innocent until and Unless Proven Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.

**\*\*Law enforcement is seeking the assistance of the public in locating children that may have had inappropriate contact with Ronnie D. Nash. If you have any information, please contact the Yakima County Sheriff's Office at 509-574-2550. \*\***